

states of the Country in the spectacular contribution she is making to the war of production, so vital to the success of our armed forces today.

In the great Glenn L. Martin Airplane Plant at Middle River, one of the largest in the world, Maryland workers, alive to their responsibility to back up the fighting men in the field, are turning out bombing and fighting planes for the United States Army and Navy and for the United Nations in ever-increasing numbers. Already they have begun to figure prominently in the fighting fronts. Undoubtedly, they will figure increasingly in the efforts now underway to achieve the air domination that will supply the final death blow to both Japan and Germany.

Great shipbuilding plants at Sparrows Point and Fairfield, even now due for further expansion; the tremendous Bethlehem Steel blast furnaces at Sparrows Point; the innumerable war industry plants in the Baltimore industrial area, at Hagerstown and Cumberland; the explosives plants at Elkton and Indian Head, and a new one, at the opening of which I will assist on Thursday at Chestertown; all these, plus the Government plants at Aberdeen and Edgewood and other points, combine to give to Maryland and its industrial workers a place in the "fighting front" if I may call it such, that will be matched by few states in the entire Country.

All this contributes with particular significance to that most important element in our National consciousness today—Morale.

We have heard a lot of this word, possibly too much, for eternal discussion of the subject might indicate a question in our mind as to whether we really have the Morale necessary for final victory. What I mean may perhaps be illustrated by the following story. A German officer, interviewing a Greek captive asked him, "Who do you think will win the War?" Without hesitation, the Greek replied, "The British, for I never heard a single British soldier ask that question."

Morale is that state of national consciousness that sends our fighting men away to war, convinced that theirs is the just cause, and confident in their ability to achieve the victory they seek. Their morale will be high only when they are certain that conditions at home are as satisfactory as they are in the field. We know that this state of mind, so necessary, is present in our own State today, and throughout the Country. In Maryland, we have 125,000 volunteers in the protective services in the Maryland Civilian Defense organization. there can be no better assurance of State and National morale than the spirit of patriotic service and of acceptance of individual responsibility that will bring so many thousands into volunteer service for the possible defense of their homeland.

The response from your own county to the latest call for enlistments in the Maryland Minute Men, has been exceptionally gratifying. Here again there is evidence of a sensible acceptance of the situation, and of a patriotic determination to do something about it. These Maryland Minute Men, please God, may never be needed. All of us here hope they won't. Nevertheless, we do know that Crete and Greece and Russia, and others of the now-conquered